

PRESIDENT : I have to announce to this honourable House that I have received the following letter from Mr. T. M. Varughese, dated the 26th November 1937 :—

"I have the honour to inform you that in view of the no-confidence motion passed by the Assembly this morning I hereby tender the resignation of my office of the Deputy President of the Assembly."

Under the Regulation and the Rules thereunder, the Deputy President can resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Dewan and this has been accepted. Therefore, by reason of the resignation, the office of the Deputy President has become vacant and a date has to be fixed for the election of a Deputy President. Honourable members will, I am sure, agree with me in thinking that the sooner the election takes place the better from every point of view. From that aspect I shall take the sense of the House on one small question, namely whether it should be on Monday morning or on Tuesday morning. Arrangement will be made for this House to sit, say from half-past nine or nine on Monday morning or Tuesday morning. The election ought not to take more than an hour or two, so that the Sri Chitra State Council can work after that.

It has to be noticed, however, and I think it is my duty to point out to the House, that under Rule 7 of the Assembly Rules at any time before noon on the day preceding the date so fixed nomination may take place. If Monday is fixed as the date for the election of the Deputy President, Sunday, that is to-morrow 12 o'clock, is the latest time within which nominations for the Deputy Presidentship have to reach the office. It is a *dais non* for working purposes, but it is not necessary to consider it as a *dais non* for the purpose of receiving nomination papers. If the members have any objection to give the notice to-morrow—I do not wish to offend the susceptibilities of any honourable member of this House if he considers that he ought not to be called upon to give notice on Sunday—then Tuesday morning shall be fixed as date for election. In that matter I shall be guided by the opinion of the House. I should like to know whether there is any objection to fixing Monday morning for the purpose of holding the election of the Deputy President.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPSE : May I suggest that in view of the fact that the function of the Deputy President is confined to matters when the Assembly is in session, there is no urgent necessity for electing the Deputy President when once this session has come to its close and therefore it may perhaps be better if the election of the Deputy President is postponed to the first day on which the next session of the Assembly meets.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. I am always anxious to receive and respect the opinions of honourable members on matters affecting this House. But that is a discretion vested in me under Rule 7. It is not a mere capricious exercise of that discretion. It is necessary to summon a meeting of this House almost immediately. The Companies Act has to be passed and as soon as the statute is ready for the purpose of bringing

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into operation the Agricultural and Land Mortgage Bank, as soon as those things are ready, whether it is in December or in January, a meeting will be summoned. I have therefore decided that the election should be either on Monday or on Tuesday.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: With your permission, I thought you wanted to know the sense of the House.

PRESIDENT: On the alternative between Monday and Tuesday.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: With your permission, may I then suggest that notice may not be fixed to be given on a Sunday.

PRESIDENT: Now that the opinion is that notice should not be made to be given on Sunday, the election of the Deputy President will take place on Tuesday at 9.30 A. M.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Resolution re communal representation in the Secretariat—(contd.)

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, on the resolution under discussion, namely, that this Assembly recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for giving proper representation in the Secretariat to all important communities in the State, especially in the places of Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents, I have practically stated all that I had to say last evening. I only wish to wind up my speech in the course of a few minutes. I tried to show in the course of my speech yesterday the untenability of some of the accusations made against the Secretariat by the mover of the motion. By your kind intervention, Sir, one of the allegations made against the Secretariat by the honourable member Mr. K. R. Narayanan has also been shown to be without foundation. Mr. Narayanan, made specific reference to the irregularities in the recent appointments in the Excise Department. He did not state what the actual irregularity was. But I may assure the House that the Secretariat or the Government did not commit any irregularity in the appointment of Excise Inspectors recently made. All the recommendations made by the Excise Commissioner were sanctioned by Government without exception and no appointment was thrust upon him without his recommendation.

I do not see, Sir, where the irregularity comes in. One or two appointments have yet to be made and the Government have asked the Public Service Commissioner to make direct recruitment. It will thus be seen that the Government or the Secretariat has not done anything irregular or against the rules.

I do not want to go more into the details of the various allegations made by Mr. K. R. Narayanan. He said that he knew of many instances of irregularities but he refrained from mentioning them. Until the instances are specified I cannot repudiate them. I also tried to show